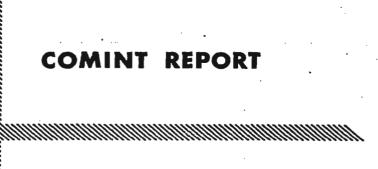
DOCID: 41

C 3-14

2/0/VCK/RØ6-66 181838Z JANUARY 1966 DIST: 0/VN

0215

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY Fort George G. Meade, Maryland



WARNING

This Document Contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Sections 793, 794 and 798, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

This document is to be distributed to and read by only those persons who are efficielly indoctrinated in accordance with communications intelligence security regulations and who need the information in order to perform their duties.

No action is to be taken on information herein reported, regardiess of temporary advantage, if such action might have the effect of revealing the existence and nature of the source.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CODEWORD MATERIAL

Declassified by NSA 05-08-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526 Transparency Case# 65886



SECRET SAVIN

DOCID: 4118164

2/0/vck/rø6-66 181838z january 1966 Dist: 0/vn

COMINT REFLECTIONS OF THE SHOOTDOWN OF AN RASC AIRCRAFT, 20 DECEMBER 1965

INTRODUCTION

INTERCEPT OF CMULTI-CHANNEL RADIO RELAY FACILITIES SERVING THE DRY SAM
SYSTEM DURING THE PERIOD \$642Z-6617Z, 28 DECEMBER 1965, CONTAINED CONVERSATIONS
REFLECTING THE SHOOTDOWN OF AN RASC AIRCRAFT ON THAT DAY. DURING THE 2388Z
HOUR ON THE 19TH, FOUR AIRCRAFT WERE DETECTED IN THE GULF OF TONKIN, THREE OF
WHICH APPARENTLY ENTERED THE DRY LANDMASS IN THE GENERAL HAIPHONG AREA AND
FLEW TO AN UNDETERMINED POINT NORTHEAST OF UONG BI. THE AIRCRAFT THEN FLEW
BACK OUT INTO THE GULF OF TONKIN. AT THIS POINT ONE AIRCRAFT, REPORTEDLY
FLYING ON A WESTERLY HEADING, RE-ENTERED THE DRY LANDMASS AND OVERFLEW UONG
BI. THE AIRCRAFT, DESCRIBED IN COMMUNICATIONS AS EITHER AN A3 OR A5 TYPE,
WAS SHOT DOWN APPARENTLY ON THE IMMEDIATE WESTERN SIDE OF UONG BI BY AAA FIRE.
UF THE TWO CREW MEMBER, ONE WAS REPORTED DEAD, WHILE THE OTHER WAS INDICATED
TO BE WOUNDED AND APPARENTLY IN CRITICAL CONDITION. ALTHOUGH REFERENCES WERE
MADE TO A RESCUE AIRCRAFT, IT CANNOT BE DETERMINED WHETHER OR NOT THIS WAS
AN ASSUMPTION OR A REFLECTION OF AN AWARENESS THAT RESCUE UNITS HAD BEEN ALERTED.

DETAILS

RETWEEN 8642Z-6125Z DRV PERSONNEL AT THE HAIPHONG AREA SAM REGIMENTAL HEALQUARTERS AND AIR/AIR DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS, HANOI DISCUSSED THE SHOOTDOWN OF AN AIRCRAFT. THE SPEAKER AT THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS REPORTED THAT LARING THE 2386Z HOUR (19 DECEMBER) FOUR AIRCRAFT WERE DETECTED IN THE GULF OF TONKIN. THE AIRCRAFT ENTERED THE DRV LANDMASS IN THE GENERAL AHIPHONG AREA AND FLEW NORTHEAST OF UONG BI TO AN UNDETERMINED POINT, THEN TURNED TO THE SOUTHWEST. THE AIRCRAFT WERE NOT TAKEN UNDER FIRE ON THIS FIRST PASS.

CHE AIRCRAFT THEN RE-ENTERED THE DRV LANDMASS ON A WESTERLY HEADING AND FLEW ALLING A ROAD, OVERFLYING UONG BI WHERE IT WAS SHOT DOWN BY AAA FIRE. AT APPROXIMATERY \$128Z, THE SPEAKER AT THE AIR/AIR DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS INFORMED THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS AS FOLLOWS: "...AND AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE SENDING A PLANE TO CONTINUE THE RESCUE." "...AND, RECENTLY THEY...PRESENTLY THEY ARE SENDING A PLANE TO RESCUE THE PILOT". A REFERENCE WAS ALSO MADE TO A PLAN TO DEFEND AGAINST THE ARRIVAL OF THE RESCUE AIRCRAFT; HOWEVER, THE

SECRET SAVIN

SECRET SAVIN

DOCID: 4118164

2/0/VCK/RØ6-66

SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE PIAN WERE NOT DISCUSSED AND NO FURTHER REFERENCES TO A RESCUE AIRCRAFT WERE NOTED.

THE DOWNED ATRCRAFT, WHEREIN THE SPEAKER AT THE SAME TWO LOCATIONS AGAINS DISCUSSED
THE DOWNED ATRCRAFT, WHEREIN THE SPEAKER AT THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS IDENTIFIED
THE AIRCRAFT AS AN A3 OR A5 TYPE. A FINAL REFERENCE TO THE SHOOTDOWN OF THE
AIRCRAFT CCCURRED PERWEEN \$613Z-\$617Z. THE GENERAL FLIGHT DIRECTION OF THE AIRCRAFT WAS REPORTED. THE CONDITION OF THE CREW WAS REPORTED, AS ONE DEAD AND THE
CTHER WOUNDED AND IN CRITICAL CONDITION. IT WAS FURTHER REPORTED THAT AS THE
AIRCRAFT WAS PASSING OVER WONG BI, AAA UNITS IN THAT AREA WERE SHOOTING AT IT.
THE TARGET THEN REPORTEDLY PASSED OVER ANOTHER UNIT VERY SLOWLY, WHERE AAA
FIRE POWER WAS CONCENTRATED ON IT AND IT WAS THEN SHOT DOWN.

COMMENTS

COLLATERAL SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THE LOSS OF AN RASC THAT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO CONDUCT A PHOTO/BDA MISSION OVER THE UONG BI THERMAL POWER PLANT, WITH TIME OVER TARJET AT 2000032. THE RASC WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO F4 ESCORT AIRCRAFT AND A SPARE RASC, ALL OF WEICH LOST CONTACT WITH THE DOWNED AIRCRAFT AT 1923592. THE CONVERSATION CONTECTED DURING THE PERIOD 00422-01252, REFERENCING THE FLIGHT OF FOUR AIRCRAFT, WAS PROBABIL A REFLECTION OF THE TWO F4 AND TWO RASC AIRCRAFT. THE SECUTIONAN APPARENTLE CONTRED DURING THE PERIOD 1923592 AND 2000422, DECEMBER 1965. THERE WERE WE REFERENCES TO MISSILE LAUNCHES, THUS INDICATING THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS PROBABLY OPERATING AT AN AIRTITUDE BELOW 5,000 FEET. THE CONVERSATION DURING THE PERIOD 06132-06172 REVEALED THAT THE AIRCRAFT APPARENTLY FLEW SLOWLY OVER ONE WRITT AFTER PASSING WONG BY POSSIBLY INDICATING THAT IT WAS INITIALLY HIT BY AAA WORLD OVER UNITS IN AND DEWIND BY A UNIT LOCATED WEST OF UONG BY.

THROUGHOUT A CONVERSATIONS THERE WERE NO REFERENCES TO THE CREW MEMBERS BAILING OUT, THES INDICATING THAT THEY WERE FOUND IN THE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE.

THE COLLATERAL SOURCE ALSO REPORTED THAT RESCUE SERVICES WERE ALERTED, BUT
NO SEARCH WAS POSSIBLE IN THE CHIEFFARE ARE DUE TO LOW CETTINGS AND HEAVY AAA/
AUTOMATIC WEAPONS ENVIRONEMY. THE REPORT FROM THE AIR/AIR DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS
AT \$12\$Z REFERENCING A RESCUE AIRCRAFT COULD INDICATE; (A) DRV PERSONNEL
ASSUMED THAT A RESCUE AITEMPT WOULD HE MADE OR (B) THEY WERE AWARE OF THE FACT
THAT RESCUE UNITS HAD BEEN ALERTED.

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

SECRET SAVIN